CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for varying an amount of thermal energy transmitted to print media advancing along a print path in a printing device, comprising:

a heater configured to produce thermal energy; and

a thermally conductive endless belt, rotatably carried by the printing device and configured to transmit thermal energy from the heater to the print media, at least a portion of said belt being disposed adjacent the print path along at least a portion thereof, the length of said belt portion adjacent the print path being adjustable so as to vary the amount of time print media advancing along the print path is adjacent said belt;

whereby the amount of thermal energy transmitted to print media traveling along the print path is adjustable.

2. A system as in claim 1 further comprising a first roller about which said belt turns, said roller being movable with respect to the print path along at least one of a direction parallel to the print path and a direction transverse to the print path.

3. A system as in claim 2, further comprising a second roller about which said belt turns.

4. A system as in claim 3, wherein the position of the second roller with respect to the print path is fixed.

5. A system as in claim 2, wherein a distance between the first and second rollers is substantially maintained constant, and the first roller is rotatable about the second roller to bring the belt closer and farther away from the print path.

6. A system as in claim 2, wherein at least the first roller is movable parallel to the print path to vary the distance along the print path where said belt is adjacent the print path.

7. A system as in claim 2, further comprising a third roller about which said belt rotates.

8. A system as in claim 7, wherein at least two of said three rollers are movable with respect to a remaining roller of the three.

9. A system as in claim 7, wherein at least one of said three rollers is movable parallel to the print path.

10. A system as in claim 1, wherein a portion of the print path adjacent to which said belt is positionable is flat.

11. A system as in claim 1, wherein a portion of the print path adjacent to which said belt is positionable is curved.

12. A system as in claim 1, wherein the belt is in contact with print media advancing along the print path along at least a portion of the print path where the belt is adjacent the print path.

13. A system as in claim 12, wherein said belt contacts print media as it advances along the print path at one point along the print path, and said belt is adjacent but not in contact with the print media for at least some portion of the length along which the belt is adjacent the print path.

14. A system as in claim 1, wherein a substantially flat portion of the continuous belt can be disposed at an oblique angle to a substantially flat portion of the print path.

15. A system as in claim 1, wherein the distance between belt and print media decreases as the print media advances along the print path.

16. A system as in claim 1, wherein the distance between belt and print media increases as the print media advances along the print path.

17. A system as in claim 1, wherein the continuous belt is disposable parallel to the print path along at least a portion of the print path.

18. A system as in claim 1, wherein the heater is incorporated in a roller.

19. A system as in claim 1, wherein the heater is disposed adjacent the continuous belt.

20. A system as in claim 19, wherein the heater is located outside the belt.

21. A system as in claim 19, wherein the heater is separated from a roller.

22. A system for varying an amount of thermal energy imparted by a fuser to print media advancing along a print path in a printing device, comprising:

a heater configured to produce thermal energy; and

a thermally conductive endless belt, rotatably carried by the printing device and configured to transmit thermal energy from the heater to the print media, at least a portion of said belt being disposed adjacent the print path along at least a portion thereof, the length of said belt portion adjacent the print path being adjustable so as to vary the amount of time print media advancing along the print path is adjacent said belt;

wherein the system enables the amount of thermal energy transmitted to print media traveling along the print path to be adjustable, and the amount of gloss imparted to the print media to be varied.

23. A system enabling variation of an amount of thermal energy imparted by a fuser to print media advancing along a print path in a printing device, comprising:

a heater configured to produce thermal energy;

a first roller carried by the printing device; and

a thermally conductive endless belt, rotatably carried by the printing device and rotatably engaging the first roller, the endless belt being configured to transmit thermal energy from the heater to the print media, at least a portion of said belt being disposed adjacent the print path along at least a portion thereof, the length of said belt portion adjacent the print path being adjustable by movement of the first roller with respect to the print path, so as to vary the amount of time print media advancing along the print path is adjacent said belt, wherein the system enables the amount of thermal energy transmitted to print media traveling along the print path to be adjustable, and the amount of gloss imparted to the print media to be varied due to variation in the amount of thermal energy imparted.